



GENERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES

(GAS)

The General Arts and Sciences major allows students to design a liberal arts program that meets their interests and career goals. Most students who choose the GAS major do so after their first or second year, having decided they would like more freedom to select a variety of courses than is offered in traditional majors. Others are non-traditional students who want to use transfer credits to their best advantage.

GAS majors have four options (Humanities; Social and Behavioral Sciences; Science/Mathematics; Liberal Studies), allowing them to select 24 credits from a variety of courses to meet upper division requirements. This individual program must be approved by the faculty adviser to assure that each student's plans reflect serious thought and a coherent set of goals.

Since this major allows students much freedom of choice, they should confer frequently with the adviser about their long-range plans and the prerequisites for upper-level courses. The Career Development Center has been highly supportive in assisting students in this major with their career and graduate school plans.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Students who successfully complete this liberal arts program follow a variety of careers. Some have gone directly into the professional world, for example, working for the federal government, state environmental services, or private business. Recent graduates include a university bookstore manager, an editorial assistant, and a counselor in children's services. A number of students have entered graduate programs, most recently in American Studies, the social sciences, education, and student personnel administration.

VALUE OF A LIBERAL ARTS DEGREE

Increasingly, employers and graduate schools are recognizing that liberal arts graduates have a solid foundation in critical reading, writing skills, and analytical thinking that encourages lifelong learning. The ability to take individual responsibility for one's education and to adapt to constant change will be highly valued in the workplace of the 21st century.

Program Chair: Ms. Elizabeth Fogle, 814-898-6821, elf12@psu.edu
pennstatebehrend.psu.edu/gas

GENERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES

(B.A., 124 credits)

Students should review their degree audits via eLion at <http://eLion.psu.edu>

General Education (45 credits)

WRITING/SPEAKING (9 cr)

ENGL 015 or 030H (GWS) _____ (3)

ENGL 202A, B, C, or D (GWS) _____ (3)

CAS 100A, B, C, or H (GWS) _____ (3)

QUANTIFICATION (6 cr)

any GQ course _____ (3)

any GQ course _____ (3)

NATURAL SCIENCES (9 cr)

Students may complete any 9 credits of GN sciences as long as one course contains a lab.

_____ (3)

_____ (3)

_____ (3)

Lab course _____

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY (3 cr)

Students may complete any 3 credits of GHA as long as the total equals 3 or more credits.

ARTS (6 cr)

GA courses*

_____ (3)

_____ (3)

HUMANITIES (6 cr)

GH courses*

_____ (3)

_____ (3)

SOCIAL/BEHAVIORAL (6 cr)

GS courses*

_____ (3)

_____ (3)

*Courses may not be taken in the area of the student's primary major.

Note: A student may request an exception in order to establish a focus in one area. For example, a student may opt to take *one* course in the Social & Behavioral Sciences, *two* in the Arts, and *three* in the Humanities—referred to as the 3-6-9 sequence.

Additional Graduation Requirements

First-Year Seminar (Included in electives) _____ (1)

Writing Across the Curriculum in the major (W)** _____ (3)

International Cultures (IL)**+ _____ (3)

United States Cultures (US)**+ _____ (3)

**Can also be counted toward General Education or major requirements.

+ Effective for students enrolling in or after summer session 2005.

Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirements (12–24 credits)

FOREIGN LANGUAGE (0–12 credits): students must attain 12th credit level proficiency.

_____ (4) _____ (4) _____ (4)

This requirement is governed by a placement policy dictated by the number of levels of foreign language completed prior to admission to college.

B.A. KNOWLEDGE DOMAINS (9 credits)

Formerly, students were required to complete 3 credits in each of three domains (Arts, Humanities, Social & Behavioral Sciences). Effective Summer 2005, students are permitted to complete all 9 credits in any one of six domains or a combination thereof, but *courses may not be taken in the area of the*

student's primary major. The six domains are Arts (GA), Humanities (GH), Social & Behavioral Sciences (GS), Natural Sciences (GN), Quantification (GQ), and Foreign Language *if* the coursework is in a second foreign language or beyond the 12th credit proficiency of the first foreign language.

_____ (3) _____ (3) _____ (3)

See additional courses at: <http://www.psu.edu/bulletins/bluebook/gened/bad.html>

OTHER CULTURES (3 cr)† _____

†Cannot be used to satisfy the U.S. & International Cultures requirement. See: <http://www.psu.edu/bulletins/bluebook/gened/bad.html#OCUL>

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR (36 credits)

Each student must earn at least a grade of C in each 300- and 400-level course in the major field.

COMMON REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL OPTIONS (12 credits)

Select 3 credits in each of the areas of Arts, Humanities, Science/Math, and Social and Behavioral Sciences.

Arts
_____ (3)

Humanities
_____ (3)

Natural Science or Quantification
_____ (3)

Social & Behavioral Sciences
_____ (3)

OPTIONS (select one)

HUMANITIES (24 credits)

3 credits in each of three areas
(e.g., English, History, Philosophy, etc.)

_____ (3)
_____ (3)
_____ (3)

Select 15 credits at the 400 level.*

_____ (3)
_____ (3)
_____ (3)
_____ (3)
_____ (3)

SCIENCE/QUANTIFICATION (24 credits)

3 credits in each of three areas
(e.g., Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Math, Logic, Comp. Science, etc.)

_____ (3)
_____ (3)
_____ (3)

Select 15 credits at the 400 level.*

_____ (3)
_____ (3)
_____ (3)
_____ (3)
_____ (3)

SOCIAL/BEHAVIORAL (24 credits)

3 credits in each of three areas
(e.g., Psychology, Sociology, Political Science, Economics, etc.)

_____ (3)
_____ (3)
_____ (3)

Select 15 credits at the 400 level.*

_____ (3)
_____ (3)
_____ (3)
_____ (3)
_____ (3)

LIBERAL STUDIES (24 credits)

In consultation with the GAS program chair, the student may choose from any BA offering to design an appropriately related course sequence.

_____ (3)
_____ (3)
_____ (3)

Select 15 credits at the 400 level.*

_____ (3)
_____ (3)
_____ (3)
_____ (3)
_____ (3)

*Students may include 3–6 credits of 494, 495, 496, 497, or 499

ELECTIVES FOR ALL OPTIONS (19 credits)

_____ (3) _____ (3) _____ (3)

_____ (3) _____ (3) _____ (3)

_____ (1) First-Year Seminar

**Recommended Academic Plan for General Arts and Sciences (GAS at Penn State Erie, The Behrend College)
Effective Summer 1988 (Review Date Spring 2001)**

Semester 1	Credits	Semester 2	Credits
First-Year Seminar	1	General Education (GA, GH, or GS)*	3
ENGL 015 (GWS) Rhetoric and Composition <i>or</i> ENGL 030 (GWS) Honors Freshman Composition	3	General Education Selection*	3
Arts (GA), Humanities (GH), or Social & Behavioral Science (GS)*	3	General Education Selection*	3
Quantification (GQ) or Natural Science (GN)**	3	Quantification (GQ) or Natural Science (GN)**	3
Health and Physical Activity (GHA)	1	Health and Physical Activity (GHA)	1
Foreign Language (Level One)#	4	Foreign Language (Level Two)#	4
Total Credits:	15	Total Credits:	17
Semester 3	Credits	Semester 4	Credits
General Education Selection*	3	ENGL 202A, B, C, or D (GWS) <i>Effective Writing</i>	3
General Education Selection*	3	CAS 100 (GWS) <i>Effective Speech</i>	3
Bachelor of Arts Other Cultures Course	3	Arts (GA) Common Requirement for the Major	3
General Education Selection**	3	General Education Selection**	3
Foreign Language (Level Three)#	4	General Education Selection**	3
		Health and Physical Activity (GHA)	1
Total Credits:	16	Total Credits:	16
Semester 5	Credits	Semester 6	Credits
BA Knowledge Domains (defined on page 2 of check sheet)	3	BA Knowledge Domains (defined on page 2 of check sheet)	3
BA Knowledge Domains (defined on page 2 of check sheet)	3	Option Requirement any level +	3
Social & Behavioral Science (GS) Common Requirement	3	Option Requirement 400-level +	3
Quantification (GQ) or Natural Science (GN) Common Req	3	Elective	3
Option Requirement any level +	3	Elective	3
Total Credits:	15	Total Credits:	15
Semester 7	Credits	Semester 8	Credits
Option Requirement any level +	3	Option Requirement 400-level +	3
Option Requirement any level +	3	Option Requirement 400-level +	3
Option Requirement 400-level +	3	Humanities (GH) Common Requirement for the Major	3
Option Requirement 400-level +	3	Elective	3
Elective	3	Elective	3
Total Credits:	15	Total Credits:	15

- #This requirement is governed by a placement policy dictated by the number of levels of foreign language completed prior to admission to college.
- **Bold type** indicates courses requiring a quality grade of C or better.
- GWS, GHA, GQ, GN, GA, GH, and GS are codes used to identify General Education requirements.
- *Students need 6 credits in GA, 6 credits in GH, and 6 credits in GS.
- **Students need 6 credits in GQ and 9 credits in GN; one Natural Science (GN) course must include a laboratory component.
- US, IL, and US:IL are codes used to designate courses that satisfy University United States/International Cultures requirements.
- Both US (United States Cultures) and IL (International Cultures) must be completed within the degree requirements.
- W and Y are codes used to designate courses that satisfy University Writing Across the Curriculum requirements.

Program Notes: Students can double count US & IL requirements for general education courses but not for the Other Cultures requirement.

+ GAS majors have four options to choose from: Humanities; Social and Behavioral Sciences; Science/ Mathematics; Liberal Studies, allowing them to select 24 credits from a variety of courses to meet upper division requirements. This individual program must be approved by the faculty adviser to assure that each student's plans reflect serious thought and a coherent set of goals. See [check sheet](#) for more information about options.

Academic Advising Notes: The course series listed above is only one of many possible ways to move through this curriculum. The number of electives required varies per student. Please be sure to consult with an adviser about your intended plan.